based generation units and whether there is any proposal to generate 12000 MW new capacity from such units;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the locations of the proposed units and by when these are likely to be set up; and

(c) how many units have signed power purchase agreements with Government and what are the reasons for not signing agreements by the remaining units so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have issued guidelines for recommending projects for liquid fuel linkage to the concerned Stated within the capacity (in MW) allocated to them. The recommendations of the State Governments are being received based on which fuel linkages would be firmed up.

(c) Govemment of India does not sign any Power Purchase Agreement with Independent Power Producers (IPPs). PP As are signed between the IPP and the concerned State Electricity Board/ Electricity Utility.

Discrimination in Wages of NTPC Workers

2051. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some discrimination in wages of NTPC workers has been brought to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) do (d) Do not arise.

Failure of Northern Grid

2052. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that of late Northern States are facing acute power shortage due to frequent and massive failure in Northern Grid;

(b) if so, what are the details of Grid failure due to tripping and other reasons during the last one year; and

(c) remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by Govemment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) During the period November, 1996 to January, 1997 there were some grid disturbances in the Northern Grid which affected the power supply in the Northern States.

(b) The detail of the Northern Grid failure due to tripping and other reasons during the last one year is given in the Statement *{See* below).

(c) The Ministry of Power Constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Grid & Operation), Central Electricity Authority on 20th December, 1996 to analyse the causes leading to frequent disturbances in the Northern Grid and to suggest remedial measures to avoid recurrence of such disturbances. The State Governments NTPC and Power Grid have been asked to implement the recommendations made by the Committee to avoid recurrence of grid failure.